



NLS Handbook, 2002

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Preface

The *NLS Handbook* is intended to provide an introduction to and overall picture of the National Longitudinal Surveys (NLS) to those unfamiliar with the surveys and their data. It contains general information about the surveys, a description of the contents of each year of the surveys, and information on acquiring and using the data. The handbook includes tables that provide descriptions of the variables in the data, and gives the years for which those variables are

available.

The NLS are sponsored by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) of the U.S. Department of Labor. The National Longitudinal Surveys program is housed within the Office of Employment and Unemployment Statistics at BLS. Michael Horrigan heads the NLS program, which includes a staff of research economists who work with NLS data and assist in developing NLS products.

Acknowledgments

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BLS also thanks the NLS contractors for their work in

data collection, production, distribution, user services, and overall survey management. BLS contracts with the Center for Human Resource Research (CHRR) at The Ohio State University, the National Opinion Research Center (NORC) at the University of Chicago, and the Census Bureau for these services. The Principal Investigator for the NLSY79 and NLSW is Randall Olsen of The Ohio State University, and the Principal Investigator for the NLSY97 is Jim Walker of the University of Wisconsin.

Finally, BLS thanks the thousands of individuals who have participated in the NLS throughout the years. The long-term cooperation of NLS respondents is ultimately the most important factor in making the NLS such a valuable data resource.

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